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INFO RUFLEPA/AMCONSUL ADANA 9549
RUOMPL/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 2944
RUFLAEA/AMCONSUL IZMIR 3022
RUEABND/DEAHQS WASHDC
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 02388

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: SNAR, TU
SUBJECT: DISCUSSION OF NARCOTICS MATTERS AT THE
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. DURING A CALL ON AYDIN SAHINBAS, DIRECTOR FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ON ANOTHER MATTER SAHINBAS RAISED WITH THE NARCOTICS COORDINATOR TWO ITEMS OF INTEREST. FIRST, SAHINBAS SAID HE WANTED TO CONVEY THE OFFICIAL THANKS OF THE GOT FOR THE COOPERATION AND SUPPORT OF THE U.S. DELEGATION AT THE FEBRUARY 6-10 COMMISSION ON NARCOTICS DRUGS MEETING IN VIENNA. HE CITED IN PARTICULAR A SPEECH IN SUPPORT OF THE GOT'S RESOLUTION LINKING DRUG AND ARMS SMUGGLING BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DICARLO AND THE COOPERATION OF DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY TAYLOR ON THE SAME ISSUE.

3. SAHINBAS THEN MENTIONED A REPORT HE HAD RECENTLY RECEIVED FROM THE TURKISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON ON THE JANUARY VISIT TO TURKEY OF CODEL RANGEL. SOMEONE FROM THE EMBASSY'S STAFF CALLED ON JOHN CUSAK, A STAFFER FROM THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON NARCOTICS. ACCORDING TO THE EMBASSY REPORT, CUSAK COMPLIMENTED THE TURKS ON THEIR SUCCESSFUL POPPY CONTROL PROGRAM BUT SAID THE GOT WAS SERIOUSLY UNDERESTIMATING THE PROBLEM OF NARCOTICS TRANSITING TURKEY AND, AS A RESULT, NOT DOING ENOUGH TO INTERDICT THIS ILLICIT FLOW. SAHINBAS SAID THE MFA HAD DECIDED NOT TO INFORM THE TURKISH NATIONAL POLICE (TNP) AND THE JANDARMA OF CUSAK'S COMMENTS IN ORDER TO AVOID A NEGATIVE REACTION FROM THOSE AGENCIES. HE EXPRESSED AMAZEMENT THAT CUSAK COULD HAVE COME AWAY FROM TURKEY WITH THIS IMPRESSION. THE PRIME MINISTER HAD MET WITH THE CODEL TO DEMONSTRATE THE IMPORTANCE THE GOT ATTACHES TO THIS PROBLEM. IN ADDITION, OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS THE TNP HAS SET UP NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT UNITS IN EACH OF TURKEY'S 67 PROVINCES, SEIZURES WERE UP, ETC.

4. WE ARE ALSO PUZZLED BY CUSAK'S REMARKS. THEY DO NOT ACCURATELY REFLECT THE SITUATION HERE IN THAT THE GOT HAS CLEARLY STEPPED UP ITS ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS OVER

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THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS AND THE INTENSIFIED ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM IS PAYING DIVIDENDS. WE UNDERSTAND FROM DEA THAT SEIZURES SO FAR THIS FISCAL YEAR ALREADY EXCEED THE PREVIOUS HIGH FOR A FULL YEAR AND, THAT THERE IS GROWING EVIDENCE THAT TRAFFICKING ROUTES ARE SHIFTING SOUTH TO AVOID TURKEY.

5. THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONTACT CUSAK IN AN ATTEMPT TO CLARIFY THIS MATTER. IF CUSAK'S REMARKS HAVE BEEN REPORTED INACCURATELY, WE SHOULD SO INFORM THE GOT. STRAUZ-HUPE
END OF MESSAGE

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